



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 381

LCO No. 1634

01634_____ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

***AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE
CENTERS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2004*) The Department of
2 Education shall encourage the use of regional educational service
3 centers as providers of goods and services for local and regional
4 boards of education and may award special consideration to grant
5 applications that indicate the use of services of regional educational
6 service centers or joint purchasing agreements among boards of
7 education for the purpose of purchasing instructional or other
8 supplies, testing materials, or food or food services.

9 Sec. 2. Subsection (d) of section 10-292o of the general statutes, as
10 amended by section 11 of public act 03-6 of the June 30 special session,
11 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
12 *1, 2004*):

13 (d) The amount of the regional educational service center lease grant
14 approved by the Commissioner of Education under the provisions of
15 this section shall be the eligible percentage, as determined in

16 subsection (c) of section 10-285a, as amended, times the eligible lease
17 costs as determined by the Commissioner of Education. Grants
18 pursuant to this section shall be paid on a current year basis if the
19 regional educational service center files an application to lease a
20 facility with the state Department of Education on or before August
21 first of each year. No such facility or portion thereof shall be eligible
22 for a grant under this section unless the local fire marshal has declared
23 the facility suitable for occupancy as a facility for use in furnishing
24 educational programs and services. Eligible costs pursuant to this
25 section shall be limited to the lease cost of the building, net of any
26 other costs. Grant payments shall be made as follows: Twenty-five per
27 cent of the estimated cost in October, twenty-five per cent of the
28 estimated cost in January, and the balance of the estimated cost in
29 April. The actual cost will be reported on or before September first
30 following the year of application on the end of school year report filed
31 by each regional educational service center. If the Commissioner of
32 Education determines that there has been an underpayment or
33 overpayment in a grant made pursuant to this section, the
34 commissioner shall calculate the amount of the underpayment or
35 overpayment and shall adjust the amount of the grant payment for the
36 fiscal year next following the fiscal year in which such underpayment
37 or overpayment was made. The amount of the adjustment shall be
38 equal to the amount of the underpayment or overpayment. If the
39 amount of the overpayment exceeds the grant payment for the fiscal
40 year next following the fiscal year in which such overpayment was
41 made, the regional educational service center shall, upon the request of
42 the commissioner, pay the department the difference. Any lease
43 pursuant to this section shall be for a period not to exceed twenty
44 years. In no event shall the reimbursement pursuant to this section be
45 based upon a cost per square foot which exceeds the cost determined
46 to be reasonable by the Commissioner of Education. In the case of any
47 grants computed under this section, any federal funds or other state
48 funds received for such costs covered by the grant shall be deducted
49 from cost estimates prior to computation of the grant.

50 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal [years]
51 year ending June 30, 2004, [and June 30, 2005,] the amount of the
52 grants payable to regional educational service centers in accordance
53 with this section, shall be reduced proportionately if the total of such
54 grants in such year exceeds the amount appropriated for the purposes
55 of this section for such year.

56 Sec. 3. Subsection (f) of section 10-66j of the general statutes is
57 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
58 *1, 2004*):

59 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, for the fiscal
60 [years] year ending June 30, 2004, [and June 30, 2005,] the amount of
61 grants payable to regional educational service centers, shall be reduced
62 proportionately if the total of such grants in such year exceeds the
63 amount appropriated for such grants for such year.

64 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2004*) Notwithstanding the provisions of
65 subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of section 11 of public act 03-1 of the
66 June 30 special session, the funds appropriated to the Department of
67 Education for regional education services shall be the sum of
68 \$2,600,000.

69 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 10-158a of the general statutes is
70 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
71 *1, 2004*):

72 (a) Any two or more boards of education may, in writing, agree to
73 establish cooperative arrangements to provide school accommodations
74 services, goods and services, programs or activities to enable such
75 boards to carry out the duties specified in the general statutes. Such
76 arrangements may include the establishment of a committee to
77 supervise such programs, the membership of the committee to be
78 determined by the agreement of the cooperating boards. Such
79 committee shall have the power, in accordance with the terms of the
80 agreement, to (1) apply for, receive directly and expend on behalf of

81 the school districts which have designated the committee an agent for
 82 such purpose any state or federal grants which may be allocated to
 83 school districts for specified programs, the supervision of which has
 84 been delegated to such committee, provided such grants are payable
 85 before implementation of any such program or are to reimburse the
 86 committee pursuant to subsection (d) of this section for transportation
 87 provided to a school operated by a cooperative arrangement; (2)
 88 receive and disburse funds appropriated to the use of such committee
 89 by the cooperating school districts, the state or the United States, or
 90 given to the committee by individuals or private corporations; (3) hold
 91 title to real or personal property in trust, or as otherwise agreed to by
 92 the parties, for the appointing boards; (4) employ personnel; (5) enter
 93 into contracts, and (6) otherwise provide the specified programs,
 94 services and activities. Teachers employed by any such committee
 95 shall be subject to the provisions of the general statutes applicable to
 96 teachers employed by the board of education of any town or regional
 97 school district. For purposes of this section, the term "teacher" shall
 98 include each professional employee of a committee below the rank of
 99 superintendent who holds a regular certificate issued by the State
 100 Board of Education and who is in a position requiring such
 101 certification.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To restore funding to the regional educational service centers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]